



Rural Development Can Make Dreams Come True

When Mrs. Mollie Lawrence, who says she is around 70 years old give or take a year, came through the door of the Courtland USDA Rural Development Office in the fall of 2003, she had great hope that she would be able to move from her aging rental house and become a homeowner for the first time in her life.

“After looking over several other houses in the City of Franklin that I was unable to get, this one became available and it was just what I was hoping for,” said Mrs. Lawrence.

Mrs. Lawrence was assisted in her efforts by Mrs. Peggy Jordan in the Courtland Rural Development Office, the Franklin Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and the local Catholic Charities who provided for her closing costs.

“The Rural Development Home Ownership Loan Program offers individuals and families the opportunity to own a modest home without exceeding the monthly expenses that most are accustomed to paying for rent and without requiring a cash downpayment,” said Mrs. Jordan of Rural Development.

Mrs. Lawrence has eleven grandchildren and eleven great grandchildren, most of whom still live in the Franklin area, and now Mrs. Lawrence has plenty of room for all of their pictures and, of course, room for them to come and visit.

On June 16, 2005, the Acting State Director for Rural Development, Mr. Philip Stetson, recognized Mrs. Lawrence with the honor of being the Home Owner of the Year for Virginia. “She really persevered in her pursuit of her home, and we hope others will be motivated to do the same,” said Stetson.

Mrs. Lawrence was able to purchase her home in October 2004, and today stands proudly on the porch of her home having realized that her dream did come true.